





“If kids come to us from strong, healthy functioning families, it makes our job easier. IF they do not come to us from strong, healthy, functioning families, it makes our job more important.”

Barbara Coloroso



Coming together is a beginning.

Keeping together is progress.

Working together is success.

*Henry Ford*

# An Historical Perspective 2009-2012



City of Missoula proclaims  
January 19, 2010, Graduation  
Matters Missoula Day



Press Conference and Rally to  
launch GMM initiative





# GMM IS ONE YEAR OLD!





# Graduation Matters Missoula

## Three-Year Strategic Plan Overview

August 2011 – August 2014

### Vision

Graduation Matters Missoula's Vision is graduation for all students regardless of their circumstances or abilities.

### Long Term Goals...

### Short Term Goals

- Improve Attendance
- Engage Parents and Community
- Enhance Student Wellness

**GMM is TWO YEARS OLD!**



Please join in celebrating the  
2-year anniversary of GMM!

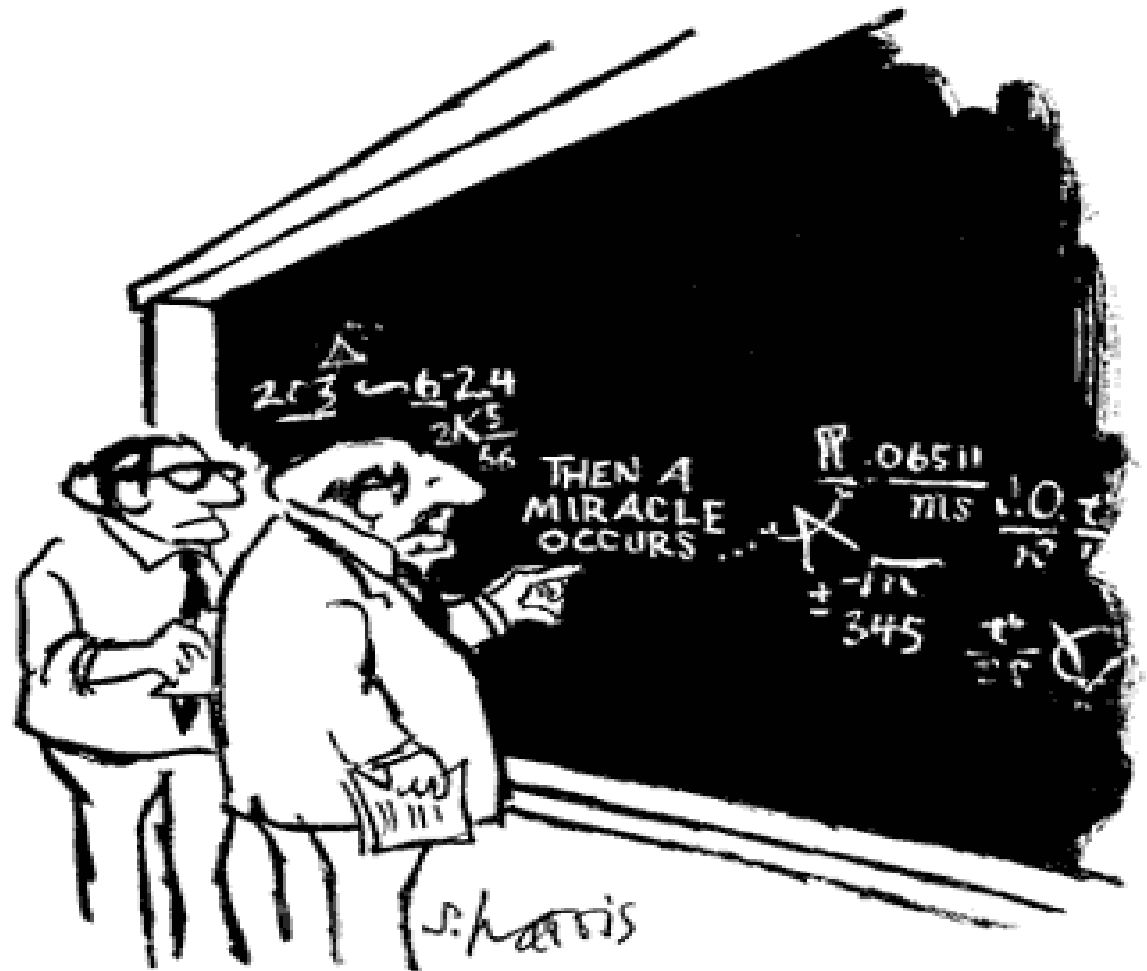
**Thursday, Jan. 19**  
4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**MCPS Business Building Boardroom**  
915 South Ave. West, Missoula, MT

A presentation of goals and  
accomplishments will begin at 4 p.m.,  
with an open house and celebration with  
refreshments beginning at 4:45 p.m.



## And then a miracle occurs ...

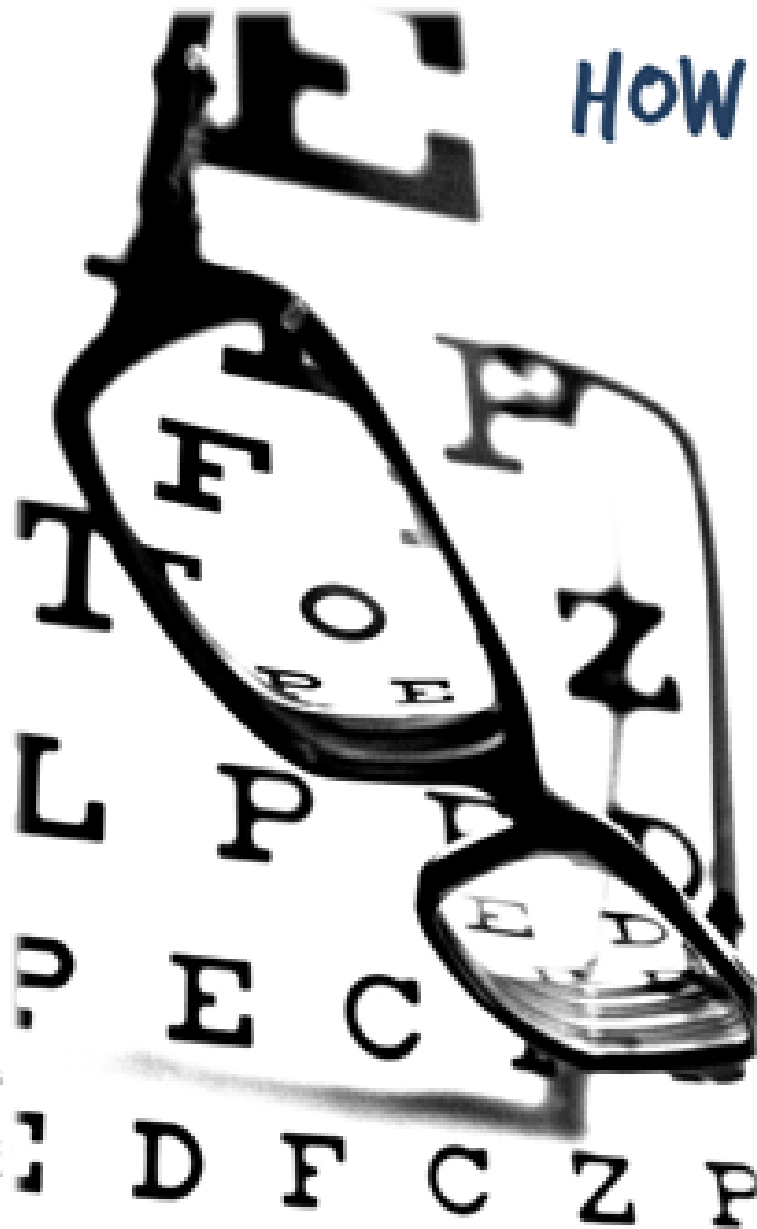


"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."

# HOW CLEAR IS YOUR VISION?

“Thinking in a concentrated manner to **DEFINE DESIRED OUTCOMES** is something few people feel they have to do. But in truth, outcome thinking is one of the most effective means available for **MAKING WISHES REALITY.**”

- David Allen  
*in Getting Things Done*





# *THE PAIN AND THE ECSTASY OF GMM*

Initial GMM activities saw immediate impact...

- Intensive community outreach
- Analyzing and changing policies and practices
- Decrease in dropouts
- Lessons learned ...

## Final Comparison of Drop Out Counts by Month for 2008-2009 vs. 2009-2010 School Year

[illegible]



# Current Challenges

- School Committee
- Parent and Family Committee
- Student Committee
- Community and Business Committee
- Marketing and Communication Committee



*Classrooms where **students understand** the learning outcomes for daily lessons see performance rates **20 percent higher** than those where learning outcomes are unclear.*

*Marzano, 2003*



# Where We're Headed

- Chronic Absence
- Fifth Grade Experience
- Focused tutoring grades 4,6,9
- Externships
- Involving the Public Library
- Student Engagement
  - Health Science Academy
  - International Baccalaureate
- PBIS – Check-in/Check-out

# GMM IS CHANGE ...



Change agents

are like Cannon ball Kids.

They see **opportunities**  
Instead of **challenges** and  
love the  
thrill of pushing the  
envelope. Most of all,  
they're willing to **jump**  
right in while everyone else  
stands around watching.



**The 100% graduation is  
not a norm... it is an ideal.**

Whenever we say that 68% or 78% or 88% or even 98% of our students graduate....there are still those who will not.

Each student who fails to graduate is a person with a face and a name and a grandmother and a long life ahead of them.





GRADUATION  
MATTERS  
MISSOULA